

Appl No. 10/023,069
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 25 January 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

The applicants respectfully request the admittance of this amendment, to place the claims in a better condition for allowance or appeal. The applicants respectfully suggest that this amendment adds no new matter, and does not require an additional search.

Claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended to restore the claims to their prior form by eliminating the limitation that the Examiner found unpersuasive for distinguishing these claims over the prior art. The scope of the claims is unchanged from their prior form, and no new matter is added. Admittance of this amendment is proper because these claims have been fully examined in this form, and an additional search is not required.

Claims 6, 9, and 12 are amended to correct minor informalities and typographical errors. The intended scope of the claims is unchanged, and no new matter is added.

Claims 13-20 are amended per the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112, second paragraph. The applicants thank the Examiner for providing the recommended wording. The scope of the claims is unchanged, and no new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. 101, and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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